(c) whether it is a fact that high officials refuse to visit sites of accidents;

(d) whether the NHAI would chage its attitude and become more accessible; and

(e) the steps proposed by NHAI to invite opinion on road safety matters and heed them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) NHAI is always accessible.

(e) Safety on roads is one of the most important aspects of National Highways Development Project and is kept in consideration in the preparation of projects and their implementation. Expression of Interest has been called from NGOs and consultants to participate in the proposed road safety and public education programme.

Expenses incurred for inaugural functions

1572. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high expenses are incurred for petty inaugural of various NHAI functions etc;

(b) what step would be taken to reduce ceremonies and functions by NHAI to conserve money;

(c) whether any steps have already been taken by NHAI in the last three months; and

(d) If so, the details of such steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. NHAI incurs reasonable expenses for holding inaugural and other such functions in a befitting manner.